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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT : Establishment of a New NPIC Exploratory Exploitation Branch

1. We are establishing an independent branch within the Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC to explore new ways in which overhead reconnaissance might be used to derive military, economic, environmental and related types of intelligence about foreign areas.

2. This New Applications Branch will investigate not only what new and incremental kinds of intelligence could be gained from overhead imagery, but also the exploitation costs of doing so. We further intend that the branch will study and produce findings concerning what kinds of overhead imagery reconnaissance coverage -- in type, quantity, frequency and quality -- would be needed to achieve a new or incremental intelligence capability.

3. We intend to seek participation of the Office of Economic Research, the Office of Strategic Research, and other Agency offices to identify specific areas that merit study and to develop exploratory approaches to assessing if overhead imagery would be useful in each case.

4. Initially we are assigning   imagery analyst positions to this new branch. These positions are being made available from the current IEG reorganization in which we are converting support positions to PI positions. Additional personnel, with technical, data processing,

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Impossible to Determine

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and photointerpretation skills, will be assigned from other Center components as needed. The branch initially will occupy tight temporary quarters within existing PI work spaces.

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**JOHN J. HICKS**  
Executive Director  
National Photographic Interpretation Center

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